



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CECW-ON

JAN 13 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS, CHIEF,
OPERATIONS DIVISIONS

SUBJECT: The National Park Service Joins the National Recreation Reservation Service

1. I am pleased to inform you that the National Park Service (NPS) will join the Forest Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in providing public reservation services for recreation sites and facilities through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) in fall 2003. The NPS was one of the original cosigners of the 1995 Interagency Agreement to coordinate for joint procurement of reservation services for all agencies. The vision of the NRRS has always been to provide easy, seamless service for the public to make reservations for Federally operated recreation sites and facilities. The incorporation of the NPS into the NRRS is an important step in realizing that vision.

2. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has been investigating ways to improve the provision of Federal services to the public through E-government. Surveys show that the public wants access to information about recreation services through E-government more than any other topic. For this reason, OMB studied the reservation services provided by the NPS and the NRRS to determine if a single system might improve the provision of this important service to the public. OMB, in consultation with the affected agencies, subsequently determined that establishing a one-stop Federal recreation reservation system would make it easier for citizens to use Federal parks and recreation facilities. OMB also determined that maintaining a single reservation system is more efficient and cost-effective than having multiple agencies operate their own reservation systems. Accordingly, OMB has directed the agencies to consolidate their reservation services into one system, the NRRS, pursuant to the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996.

3. The NPS, the Forest Service, and the Corps will be working together closely, under the oversight of OMB, for the next year to accomplish the integration by fall 2003. This activity should be transparent to Corps and Forest Service field offices. There will be no change in the provision of NRRS services to the Corps, the Forest Service, or our customers as a result of this integration in 2003. A joint communications strategy for all agencies is under development to explain in greater detail the reason for this action. I will share this strategy when it is complete, as well as provide occasional progress reports during the integration period.

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4. The incorporation of the NPS is a milestone for the NRRS and will provide truly seamless service to our recreation customers. Further, any other Federal agency wishing to provide reservation services for their customers in the future will also join the NRRS. It is gratifying to see the Corps, through the NRRS, recognized as a leader in the provision of public recreation opportunities. I congratulate all the Corps team members who have worked so diligently over the past few years to make the NRRS a success. Your efforts have been recognized in a truly meaningful way, and I am proud of you.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert H. Griffin". The signature is stylized with a large initial "R" and a cursive "H".

ROBERT H. GRIFFIN
Major General, USA
Director of Civil Works

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